

Cowes Enterprise College – Isle of Wight – Site Follow up Visit 29th May 2013

Introduction

Following the initial visit to Cowes Enterprise College on 21st March 2013, a follow up visit was undertaken on 29th May 2013. EFA representatives met with the Council's Strategic Director of Resources Dave Burbage and the Project Leader Stuart Love. From the discussions it was immediately apparent that considerable progress on the rectification of the issues had been made since the initial visit. The Council's project team was working hard at managing the project and was totally committed to opening the College as soon as it was practically possible.

During the last two months the Council had been in contact with the Danish parent company for Pihl UK Ltd. The parent company were now leading the remaining construction work and had provided considerable technical support. As a consequence there had been good progress with the work towards the completion of the snagging list and many outstanding items, including the numerous Health & Safety issues had been addressed and in most cases rectified.

Site Visit

During a tour of the building it was apparent that considerable work had been undertaken on improving the quality of internal and external finishing detail. This had resulted in a marked improvement to the visual impact of the building on entry and as the tour progressed.

Whilst there were still a number of significant issues to be addressed it was clear that the substance and specific detail of the majority of the issues was now understood by both the Council and contractor and that progress towards final rectification was now well in hand. The Council had produced an action plan and both the contractor and his supply chain were now working together, under the direction of the Councils Project team, to complete the remaining snagging items.

The requirement for the provision of on-going Facilities Management services to support the building maintenance regime was still under discussion. There remained a concern that the school would struggle to meet the costs of the necessary extensive FM regime from its existing budget. The Council was currently providing support to the school to identify and manage the process of establishing the initial FM contracts.

Conclusion

Following the extensive work undertaken on the College buildings during the last two months the Council felt that recent progress had been sufficient to indicate that the school would be substantially complete and able to open for September 2013. A plan had therefore been drafted which would allow the college to open for occupation by year 7 from September 2013. Accordingly, the completion of the required work to enable this to happen was well underway and on track.

The plan was then to have a phased entry for each year group, once and providing that building systems were working effectively and staff were fully trained to operate the building and its teaching systems.

The Council was managing the information flow with both the school and local community through the school's senior management team. Accordingly, details of the progress towards opening of the school was being communicated to staff, pupils and parents by the schools senior management team.